Shariat Courts

†1583. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the decision of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board asking the Muslim women to approach Shariat courts only for protecting their rights;

(b) whether Government consider it as an endeavour to establish a parallel judicial system; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The Ministry of Law and Justice has not received any representation/request in relation to the decision of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board asking the Muslim women to approach Shariat Courts only for protecting their rights.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

Lok Adalats in rural areas

†1584. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Lok Adalats organized in the rural areas of the country, till date, during the last three years, location-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed off in these Adalats, State-wise and yearwise;

(c) whether Government are considering to make them more effective; and

(d) if so, the number of Lok Adalats proposed to be organized this year?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Under Section 19 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the Lok Adalats are now being organised regularly at designated venues, even away from court complexes and the cases which remain unsettled are taken up in the next Lok Adalat, in all the districts of the country. The cases are settled by these Lok Adalats through the process of Conciliation and Mediation between the parties.

(d) Organising Lok Adalats is a continuing process and by the very nature of the purposes of holding Lok Adalats, the same are need based.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.